Darwin Initiative Capability & Capacity Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the "Project Reporting Information Note": (https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/information-notes-learning-notes-briefing-papers-and-reviews/).

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2023

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line

Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	DARCC013
Project title	Coordinated invasive plant management to protect Tanzanian biodiversity and livelihoods
Country/ies	Tanzania
Lead Partner	CABI
Project partner(s)	Tanzania Forest Research Institute (TAFORI, co-lead), Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), Community Research and Development Services (CORDS), Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF), Centre for Development and Ecology of the University of Bern (CDE)
Darwin Initiative grant value	£199,996
Start/end dates of project	07/2022 - 06/2024
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2022 – Mar 2023) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	07/2022 - 03/2023, Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	René Eschen (CABI) and John Richard Mbwambo (TAFORI)
Project website/blog/social media	www.woodyweeds.org, Twitter: @woodyweeds_org
Report author(s) and date	René Eschen and John Richard, 30/04/2023

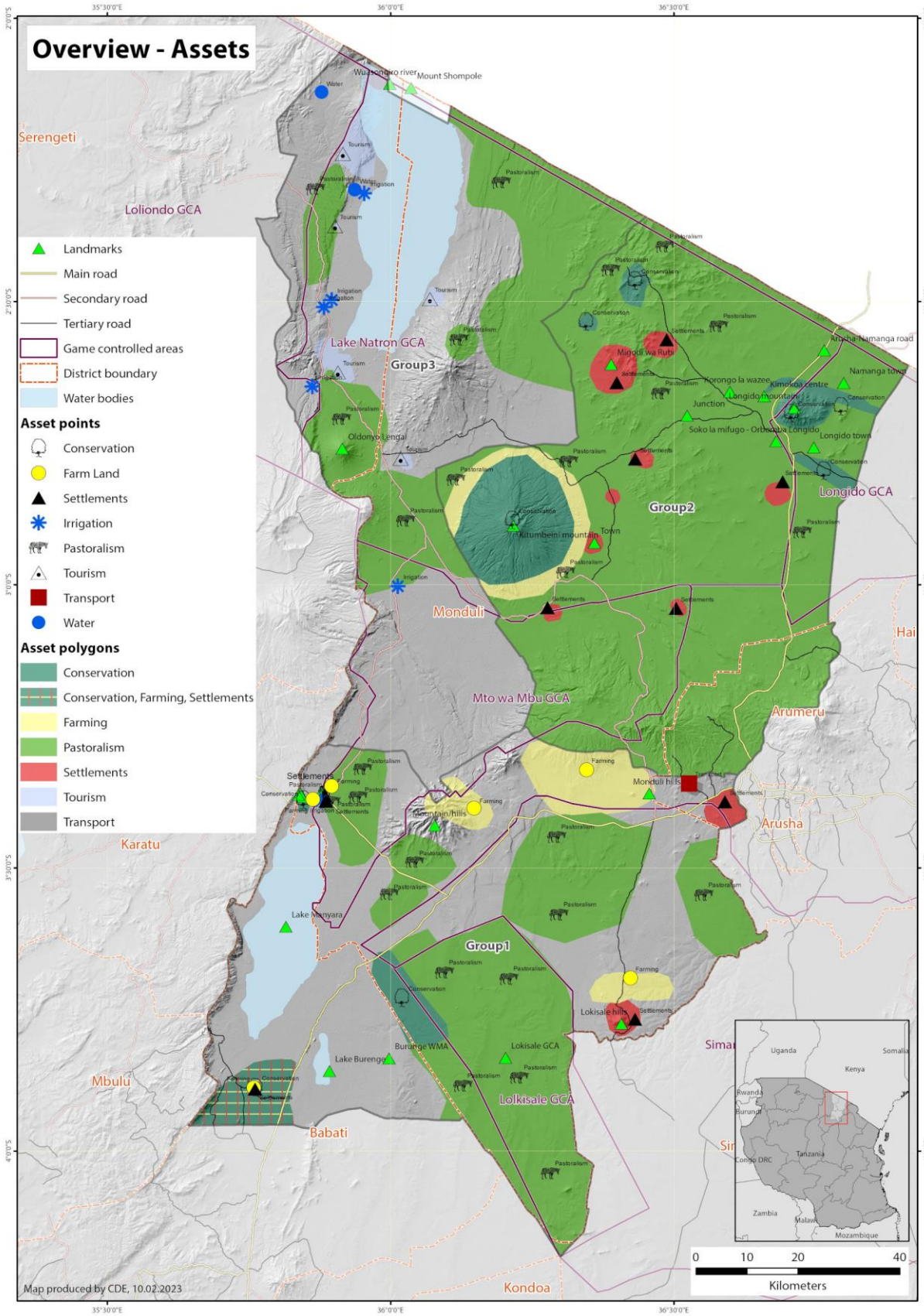
1. Project summary

Invasive alien plant species (IAS) seriously threaten biodiversity and livelihoods. This project supports implementation of the Tanzanian National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP) in the Lake Natron Basin, targeting the invasive tree *Prosopis juliflora*. Prosopis is a relatively recent arrival in the project area that covers three Districts (Longido, Monduli and Ngorongoro), roughly from Lake Natron at the Kenyan border to south of Lake Manyara (see map below) and is likely to be able to invade most of the area, thus deteriorating valuable grassland that supports key wildlife in protected areas and livelihoods in the neighbouring agro-pastoralist communities. Experience from regions of the world where prosopis invasion has reached an advanced stage shows that prosopis destroys ecosystems and livelihoods because it replaces the grassland ecosystem that wildlife and livelihoods depend on, and it reduces water availability, thus threatening the habitat for wildlife and shifting the main sources of income from pasture-based to wood-based. A main aim of the project is therefore to build capacity of many people to manage the invasion at this early stage to prevent future impacts. Successful management of

this aggressive invader requires joint planning and action by communities and management of protected areas through development of an area-wide strategy for prosopis management.

We strengthen coordination among actors at different decision-making levels, and engage them in jointly developing a prosopis strategy, setting up a surveillance system also suitable for other IAS and in implementing coordinated management. The project does this through constitution of a so-called Local Implementation Group (LIG), which consists of diverse stakeholders from the project area and the project team, who use their combined knowledge about the area, prosopis and invasive species management to co-develop a management plan for prosopis and other IAS for the area. The plan is developed based on knowledge of the current distribution of prosopis in the area, as well as its potential distribution, pathways of spread and locally available regulations and structures to support management. The development of the plan is guided by principles of spatially explicit management of IAS. Thus, stakeholders identify areas where establishment of prosopis can be prevented, areas where sparse prosopis can be removed entirely (early detection and rapid response) and areas where prosopis cannot be removed, thus here the species must be contained and assets protected. For those areas appropriate management practices will be identified and prioritised. The project will demonstrate and document, and to some extent avail, practical practices and tools for removal of prosopis trees.

The lessons learned about spatially explicit IAS management and the process of developing management plans will be shared with actors across Tanzania through a Regional Working Group (RWG), whose members represent national and subnational institutions with mandates covering protected areas and other land. One output of the project will be a guidance document that can be used as support for others to implement the process of developing spatially explicit management plans for prosopis and other IAS.



Map of assets in the project area, identified by participants of the LIG workshop. This map is a composite of the work of three groups of workshop participants working on the southern, north-eastern and north-western part of the project area. The area is dominated by grassland and lake ecosystems that support a diverse megafauna and avifauna, and pastoralist livelihoods. The area includes Lake Natron, a Ramsar site, as well as Lake Manyara and Tarangire National Parks, and several Game Controlled Areas that are essential for wildlife migration. Communities in the area depend on pastoralism and tourism.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

Collaboration principles and ethics: The project is based on a constructive collaboration of all partner institutions, who maintain engagement with relevant local, subnational and national stakeholders. All formal partners have active roles adapted to their expertise throughout the project. The project team has regular project meetings (virtual or in person) in which all partners have equal standing and decisions are taken jointly. Participants in the project activities have been selected based on their knowledge of the area and their role in managing IAS or protected areas, and their ability to influence and mainstream IAS management across landscapes. Women are included as much as possible and play an active role in all activities.

Roles and responsibilities: The Tanzanian partners (TAFORI, TAWA, CORDS and TNRF) plan and implement workshops and outreach events and take decisions jointly throughout the project. Coordination is primarily done by TAFORI, the project's co-lead, but all partners are participating in decision making, project planning and execution. *[evidence: project meeting minutes and workshop programs; Annex 4]* The Swiss partners (CABI (also through their office in Nairobi) and CDE) supported the planning of and participated in the first LIG and RWG workshops. CDE provided support through digitisation of the maps developed by stakeholders during the workshops. CABI leads the development of extension materials, with support from all partners. These materials (posters, maps), which are partially based on products of the Woody Weeds project, have been further developed or adapted in response to stakeholders demands (550 flyers were printed and a field handbook is under development). Materials have been availed in Swahili where appropriate. *[Evidence: see Annex 4 for examples]*

Stakeholder interactions: The LIG and RWG workshops, and the introductory visits to the administrations of the three districts have strengthened collaboration of the partners with stakeholders at local to national levels. This is important for the development of the prosopis (and other IAS) management plan in the Lake Natron basin, as well as for the adoption and mainstreaming of prosopis management in district, regional and national land management plans. The project was presented to and received oral support from the District Commissioners and Administrators. In Monduli District it was also presented to the District Councillors' Assembly. The RWG is meant to learn from the LIG and identify opportunities to out-scale the development of IAS management plants to other parts of Tanzania where IAS threaten protected areas. Its members represent national and subnational stakeholders, including the vice-president's office that is tasked with coordinating the implementation of the NISSAP. The project maintains regular contacts to these institutions and thus supports the implementation of the NISSAP on the local, regional, and national scales. We strive to include women as much as possible and women play an active role in all activities.

Local implementation group: Local community members are included in the LIG process to represent a diverse selection of stakeholders, including women, pastoralists, local and district administrations, as well as managers of protected areas and representatives of relevant local and international NGOs. The LIG is a community of practice, whose task it was to draft a management plan for the project area *[Evidence: draft management plan (map); Annex 4]*. This plan will be validated (or modified if requested) during community consultation meetings and finalised during a second LIG workshop. Then, it will be presented to district and regional administrations, as well as managers of protected areas, with the recommendation to implement it.

Champions: Some participants are particularly motivated to inform their communities about the threat posed by prosopis, and are ready to take action to manage the species and protect their environment from further spread. These 'champions' are important recipients of extension materials and key participants in field visits. Through them, the project can share information about the identification of the species and its impact to a broader audience. *[Evidence: report; Annex 4]*. Champions have also requested the project to demonstrate management practices and avail some tools to facilitate implementation on the ground.

M&E are primarily carried out by the co-leaders and two MSc students, with active support from all partners.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Most project activities were conducted as planned during the first nine months of the project and we are on track to deliver the outputs. First meetings of the LIG and RWG were held, one field visit to an area infested with prosopis was organised and multiple dissemination materials were produced and used. *[Evidence: project report, sample of extension materials; Annex 4]* Participants in the RWG and LIG workshops are motivated and knowledge exchange was effective, resulting in very informed discussions and the development of a draft prosopis management plan for the entire project area. *[Evidence: draft management plan; Annex 4]* During the LIG meeting, participants provided new information about the distribution and history of prosopis in the area. This information affects our target of removing 50% of prosopis, reason for which we will focus on preventing further spread to unaffected parts of the project area and removing Prosopis to protect important assets. Some delay in M&E activities has occurred, but we are working on establishing the baseline for these before more extensive interactions with communities will happen and people will be affected by project activities.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: During the reporting period, we organised one consultative meeting with the RWG (SMART Indicator 1.1) and one meeting with the LIG (1.3), during which a draft prosopis management plan for the project area was developed. *[Evidence: meeting report and digitised draft management plan; Annex 4]* We established lines of communication with the LIG and RWG members through WhatsApp, phone and in person visits (1.3). The project team visited the District Commissioner and District Administrators of Longido, Monduli and Ngorongoro districts in November 2022 and March 2023 to formally introduce the project, explain the threat posed by prosopis and the need for management plans, and to explain the draft plan. The team also presented the project to Monduli District Councillors' Assembly. These introductory visits and presentation of the problem will help in profiling prosopis management in district planning activities (3.2). The second LIG and RWG workshops have not happened yet, as it is imperative to have community consultation meetings first, to allow a larger number of stakeholders to review and validate the plan before it is finalised. These consultation meetings will take place during the first week of May 2023, followed by the second LIG and RWG workshops at the end of May.

Output 2: We developed posters about identification of prosopis, management strategies for IAS, and effective prosopis management practices and used them during the LIG and RWG workshops. We also produced stickers for easy identification of prosopis that were handed out to workshop participants and during field visits (2.1). *[Evidence: see Annex 4 for examples]* The participants to the LIG and RWG workshops visited an area in Moshi Rural Ward with dense prosopis invasion, where they interacted with affected people. *[Evidence: meeting report; Annex 4]* Seeing and hearing about the invasion impacts motivated the LIG members, particularly the pastoralists, to engage with the project and take action to prevent these impacts occurring in their area. We disseminated news and updates to participants in the RWG and LIG through different channels (Whatsapp, phone and in person), but the information has not been presented as a "news brief".

The assessment of baseline knowledge and perceptions about, and motivation to manage prosopis (2.3) by community members and stakeholders is delayed because progress of the students primarily tasked with collecting this information is delayed by university procedures. We will finalise the baseline in May 2023, before interacting with a large number of stakeholders and community members. We acknowledge that this is late to establish a baseline, but the participants in the community consultation meetings have not been in contact with the project before and we will formulate questions in the survey in a way that we can assess where respondents first heard about prosopis. This will vary among the districts due to different prosopis histories. Based on feedback from CABI's senior M&E expert, we expect that it is still possible to assess knowledge and perceptions prior to the project intervention in the area.

Output 3: We plan Training of Trainer events and practical demonstration of prosopis management methods in May (3.1), which should result in management actions on the ground (3.2). Thus, progress towards this output is very limited, but we have acquired the required chemical

herbicides and ordered the production or “tree poppers” (manual tools that are used to uproot small trees) and are therefore ready to work on this output. As mentioned below in section 3.3, removal of 50% of prosopis in the project area (3.3) is unlikely to be achieved. However, new invasion is expected to be greatly reduced as a result of training provided to communities.

Output 4: Activities related to this output will start during the second LIG and RWG workshops in May 2023.

Overall, our assessment is that the project activities are on track. We expect that all outputs will be achieved by the end of the project.

3.3 Progress towards the project outcome

We expect an enhanced awareness of IAS and their impacts on biodiversity and livelihoods at the end of the project. The reactions of LIG members to the field visit that was organised and the very informed discussions during the workshop are two signs that this awareness is already increasing. So far, there were limited interactions between the team and community members, but we expect to reach a significantly larger audience through the upcoming community consultation meetings.

People from different organisations involved in the project are motivated to implement prosopis management, but it is too early to assess how much of this enthusiasm will translate into action on the ground. The project team will start demonstrating prosopis management methods soon. However, the removal of 50% of prosopis in the project area is unlikely to be achieved by the end of the project, if ever: First, the species is more widespread than anticipated. Participants in LIG workshop 1 updated our knowledge and together with them we have concluded that removal of prosopis from the north-eastern shore of Lake Natron is impossible with the available means. Participants have proposed to contain the spread of prosopis from that area instead. Second, we have learned that planting of prosopis in and around the town of Mto wa Mbu was intentional and promoted by a donor funded project, which has shaped public perception of the species. The species is not really spreading from Mto wa Mbu, people appreciate it as a shade tree and do not see it as a problem. It is unlikely that they will want to remove it from their compounds or homesteads and we cannot force them to.

A best practice document for the coordinated management of IAS will be written and disseminated, so that RWG members can use it to implement IAS management elsewhere in the country. Lessons learned from the LIG process in the project area will be assessed during the upcoming second workshops, and these will influence the remainder of the project as well as the guidance document. It is too early to say whether the process will be taken up elsewhere, but current feedback from the vice-president’s office, who are responsible for coordinating the implementation of the NISSAP, is positive.

We believe the SMART indicators are adequate for measuring the intended outcome.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1. All governance scales are committed to implementing the NISSAP;

Comment: Although difficult to assess at this juncture, the participation in RWG and LIG meetings and continued communication and exchange of information with senior officers from the Vice President Office, Regional Administrative Office, Government Research Institutions and District Environmental Officers indicate commitment to implement the NISSAP.

Assumption 2. CBOs and communities are granted adequate means to do so;

Comment: We believe that implementing the NISSAP does not necessarily require a lot of resources, given that prosopis and other IAS are not yet abundant in the project area. However, to allocate resources to the implementation of the NISSAP, IAS management must be profiled and included in budget plans. It is too early for the project to have influence on those.

Assumption 3. Communication pathways across scales and between inside and outside PAs are actively used;

Comment: Achieved. There is some overlap between the membership of the LIG and RWG, which facilitates this, and it is further enabled by the selection of participants in the LIG itself, as well as during the community consultation meetings and future training of trainer events.

Assumption 4. Extension services, rangers and other frontline actors take up topic and advice pastoralists / land users;

Comment: we think this is the case, but we have only informed few frontline actors so far and we have not quantified how often this happens. Our own project partners use meetings of other projects to raise the prosopis issue with community members.

Assumption 5. The awareness creation and training material is useful and actively accessed by relevant stakeholders;

Comment: We believe this is the case, but we have limited ways of verifying how much these materials are accessed and used because they are distributed either in printed form or through WhatsApp, which makes it impossible to trace usage and uptake. This may be assessed through the endline survey and semi-structured interviews with various stakeholders. The translation of most extension material in Swahili was valuable, as this language is more commonly used than English.

Assumption 6. Relevant stakeholders have the required willingness and motivation to participate in implementation.

Comment: this appears to be the case. Several participants in the LIG have emerged as champions, and the motivation clearly increased thanks to the exchange visits in Moshi Rural Ward, and through interactions with neighbouring communities in Kenya. Having a Kenyan participant in the LIG, who was vocal about the experiences in his home country, was very beneficial to convincing the participants of the need to act.

3.5 Achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty reduction

As indicated in the project proposal, demonstrating that future impacts do not occur is nearly impossible, but the project outputs are designed to protect livelihoods and biodiversity.

It is well known that prosopis degrades ecosystems by replacing grassland with impenetrable thickets that are neither accessible nor suitable as fodder for cattle, which has direct knock-on effects on people's lives and income sources. Prosopis affects livelihoods also in non-monetary ways, for example by changing the basis of livelihoods from livestock to wood that impacts severely many aspects of pastoralist communities like the Maasai. It is practically or economically impossible to remove prosopis from large areas, and hence to reverse the impacts on biodiversity and livelihoods. It is therefore imperative to prevent arrival of the species in an area, remove it while still feasible, or contain it's spread if removal is impossible. This project aims to build capacity and capability of relevant stakeholders to minimise the establishment and distribution of prosopis and other IAS to prevent impacts from happening on a landscape scale. It is expected that the management of the prosopis invasion will result in preservation of grasslands, lake shore habitat as well as homesteads, which will prevent degradation of key wildlife habitat as well as grazing land.

4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

The project directly supports implementation of the NISSAP. The focal point of the vice-president's office is an active member of the RWG, which ensures that project outputs are relevant and meet stakeholder needs. This is work in progress, as the outputs serving policy implementation beyond the project area will be developed in the coming months.

More generally and long-term, the project aims to prevent prosopis invasion into a region with many protected areas and large swaths of grassland that serve wildlife as well as local livelihoods. Through its activities the project will contribute to preservation of habitat for a number of iconic species, and thus to conventions and treaties such as the CBD and Ramsar Convention. The project has not had interactions with the focal points.

5. Gender equality and social inclusion

Gender is one criterion for selection of participants in project activities and although the majority of community leaders in the project area are men, we so far have had participation of women representing pastoralists, political leaders, protected area management and women's groups *[Evidence: participant lists in RWG and LIG meeting report; Annex 4]*. Given the cultural context it is unlikely that we will achieve equal representation by men and women, but also in upcoming events we will ensure female participation. Moreover, we will continue taking special care to ensure that their opinions are heard during discussions and taken into account in decision making. This is achieved through the moderation of the meetings and discussions. In the community consultation meetings we will also have representation of youth.

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board[1].	One of the six members of the project board is a woman.
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women[2].	CORDS is under female leadership and the entire team involved in the project activities are women. CABI's Africa centre is represented by a woman.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

M&E of progress towards achieving objectives is primarily done by the project's co-leads, for example through regular review of planned and past project activities and whether the means

[1] A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

[2] Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

of verification and SMART indicators in the logframe have been achieved. These are considered the primary measures of success, and others, such as changes in knowledge and perception and the area managed, will be assessed through interviews and on-the-ground data recording by two MSc students. Progress is also discussed during regular project team meetings and project activities are adapted as needed to meet the objectives. This appears to work well and only minor changes in planning of project activities were made.

Contribution of activities and outputs towards the outcomes is, as indicated in the project proposal, hard to demonstrate directly. A main premise of the project is that stopping the spread of IAS is necessary to prevent future impacts and it is not possible to demonstrate the absence of impacts. Thus, achievement of the outcome is assumed to result from successful achievement of the means of verification.

7. Lessons learnt

We value the involvement of students in our project activities, as it is an opportunity to build capacity of a younger generation of researchers. The university regulations result in delays in the start of practical student work, however, which in this case affects the collection of baseline data for M&E. The reason for the delay is primarily the requirement to develop a project concept note and then a proposal by the students, which must be approved by the faculty before students are allowed to start their data collection. The MSc students have been involved in project activities from the very first meeting, but writing the concept notes has taken longer than anticipated. The project is adapting to this difficulty by providing more support for the students and their university supervisors. In the future, these difficulties will be addressed more proactively, e.g., by preparing and supporting students for their roles in project activities.

The introductory visits by the project team to district administrations took longer than expected, and one visit had to be delayed due to an unexpected visit of the President to one of the districts. This caused additional, unforeseen costs and delayed the community consultations. In the future we will plan more time and budget for such courtesy visits, as they are necessary to enable project work to proceed, and we will combine them with other project activities in the districts to save resources. However, such visits are a good opportunity to inform high-level decision makers about the issues at hand and the necessity to address them through government action or support, as well as inclusion in land management programmes. They will also be valuable for the profiling of prosopis and other IAS management (output 1.2).

Based on the above, we have the following recommendations for future projects:

- Projects should be aware of the time needed for students to start their work, and should ensure that supervisors are included in project development and that students are integrated in project activities from the start of the project lifetime.
- Projects working in Tanzania (and likely elsewhere) should factor in significant time and budget for formal introductory visits to authorities in the area they work in.

8. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

Not applicable.

9. Risk Management

The project relies on two MSc students for M&E. They were selected and enrolled in the Nelson Mandela East African Institute of Science and Technology in Arusha. The project team has decided to advance the process by supporting the development of an interview tool that will be administered to participants of the community consultation meetings to assess their knowledge prior to engagement with project activities (during which they will learn about prosopis and potential management strategies and practices), as well as development of a tool (based on ODK) to record presence of prosopis and where management has been implemented. We will financially support one or a few community members in each district to facilitate data collection. One student will collect data on knowledge and perception later in the project to assess how the project interventions have affected those, and the other student will continue or support collecting data about the distribution and management of prosopis in the area.

During the first LIG workshop, community members indicated that prosopis is more abundant and widespread than we had anticipated based on the available prosopis distribution model, which proved to be accurate for the project area. The model was made and validated for Kenya using training sites having much denser stands of prosopis than in the project area. Local community representatives are of the opinion that the species cannot be removed from the north-eastern shore of Lake Natron (an area called Wosiwosi), where the abundance of prosopis is more widespread and denser than expected. Consequently, the proposed management objective is to contain the spread of the species to that area.

Since the start of the project, we have learned that people have been planting prosopis as a shade tree in parts of the area, specifically in and around the town of Mto wa Mbu. These trees seem to be spreading only little and for now not beyond the limits of the town. Planting was promoted by a previous donor funded project. In this area, people appreciate the species and will probably not want to remove the trees, even if alternatives are proposed (such as the native *Vachellia (Acacia) nilotica* and *V. tortilis*) because of the realised benefits and the slow growth of the replacement trees. Elsewhere in the project area, people witness prosopis spreading from the Kenyan border and are aware of its risks, as they have heard about the impacts on the Kenyan side.

Two main challenges result from this situation: 1) we will not meet the objective to remove 50% of prosopis in the area, and 2) communicating the risks of prosopis for the region is complicated because of the very different perceptions people have of the tree and its (positive and negative) impacts. The project will address these challenges as follows: 1) in and around Mto wa Mbu, we will focus our capacity sharing and activities on limiting the spread of the trees from the town into the surrounding grazing land and protected areas. We will conduct information campaigns focussing on the impacts of the species, pathways of spread and demonstration of practices to manage the spread and established trees; 2) we will document the different perceptions about prosopis in various parts of the region and adjust our messaging, focussing strongly on preventing spread to uninvaded areas, as well as removal of young trees before they can establish more widely and produce seeds.

Furthermore, given the perceived difference in spread rates, we suspect that two prosopis species occur in the region (*P. juliflora* which is a well-known highly invasive species, and *P. pallida* which is less invasive). These species are very difficult if not impossible to distinguish based on their appearance, yet we want to confirm the presence of one or two species. We will do so through the project of one of the two students, who will describe the morphology of trees in different districts and collect samples for genetic analysis. A collaborator in the Woody Weeds project (Prof Jaco Le Roux of Macquarie University in Australia) has offered to do the genetic analyses.

We have submitted an updated version of the risk register with you Annual Report.

10. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

No other comments.

11. Sustainability and legacy

The NISSAP has a high profile in the country, as its implementation is coordinated through the vice-president's office. This project directly supports implementation of the NISSAP and key actors on the national, subnational and local levels are participating in project activities. The project was presented to relevant District and Regional authorities, and was mentioned in included as part of the speech of the Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism which will be presented to the Parliament by end of May 2023. Several project partners, especially CORDS and TNRF, have included prosopis as an issue in meetings with local community groups that interacted with them in meetings that were funded by other donors.

At local scale, the capacity of LIG members improved and they request support for managing prosopis in their areas. The project will provide this support soon through training, demonstrations, and donation of tools. The co-developed draft management plan based on discussions

informed by local knowledge and knowledge from the project about prosopis and IAS management is a clear indicator of the increased capacity of the LIG members. The capacity will be held by local stakeholders (especially the champions and local partners), as well as on the (sub-)national level with national partners and the participating people and institutions in the RWG.

The central role of vice-president's office in implementing the NISSAP and its participation in the RWG will ensure that the lessons learned are heard by relevant institutions, and that the best-practices document will address stakeholder needs. The Tanzanian co-lead is in regular contact with the vice-president's office.

12. Darwin Initiative identity

We acknowledge funding in meetings with stakeholders and use the Darwin Initiative logo on extension materials (including posters in local language, flyers, etc. *[Evidence: see Annex 4]*). The logo also appears on extension materials that were co-developed with the Woody Weeds project. The project uses the Woody Weeds website (www.woodyweeds.org) and Twitter account (@woodyweeds_org), which both acknowledge funding and provide links to the Darwin Initiative Twitter feed. The project has established a WhatsApp group with LIG members, which is active and used for communication about prosopis, its management and upcoming project activities. The project leaders (Mbwambo and Eschen) started discussing another opportunity for a Darwin funded project (also CC) with partners at the Nelson Mandela East African Institute of Science and Technology in Arusha. Thus, university partners and some local stakeholders are aware about Darwin Initiative.

13. Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?		No
Have any concerns been investigated in the past 12 months		No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	No, but any issues are expected to be reported to the project's leader or co-leader.	
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	No	
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?		Past: 0% [none] Planned: 0% [none]
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses. **No.**		
Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify. No.		

14. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2022/23 Grant (£)	2022/23 Total Darwin Initiative Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL			0	n/a

Table 2: Project mobilising of matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)

	Matched funding secured to date	Total matched funding expected by end of project
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project.		

Total additional finance mobilised by new activities building on evidence, best practices and project (£)	[redacted]

15. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Indicators of Success for Financial Year 2022-2023

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
Outcome Biodiversity and livelihoods are strengthened through increased awareness and coordinated implementation of surveillance and management of Prosopis and other invasive alien plants (IAPS) inside and outside protected areas	- Awareness about National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP) and the impact of Prosopis and other IAPS on nature and livelihoods increased in the project's target area; - Game Controlled Areas (GCAs), Natural Resource Management Organizations (NRMOs), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and communities are implementing surveillance and management of Prosopis and other IAPS; - Lessons learned from coordinated implementation of NISSAP in the target region disseminated to and taken up in other parts of Tanzania	We expect an enhanced awareness of IAS and their impacts on biodiversity and livelihoods at the end of the project. People from different organisations involved in the project are motivated to implement prosopis management, but it is too early to assess how much of this enthusiasm will translate into action on the ground. It is too early to say whether the process will be taken up elsewhere, but current feedback from the vice-president's office, who are responsible for coordinating the implementation of the NISSAP, is positive.	We expect to reach a significantly larger audience through the upcoming community consultation meetings, as well as ongoing interactions with subnational and national stakeholders including the Parliament. The project team will start demonstrating prosopis management methods, as well as ToT sessions soon. Some tools will be availed that will facilitate uprooting of young trees at the invasion front as well as in private compounds. Lessons learned from the LIG process in the project area will be assessed during the upcoming second workshops. A best practice document for the coordinated management of IAS will be written and disseminated, so that RWG members can use it to implement IAS management elsewhere in the country.
Output 1 Prosopis and IAPS management adopted as a **key function of GCAs, CBOs and society-rooted NRMOs** and becomes integral part of land management plans and/or conservation and restoration programmes in target regio	1.1 Two meetings held by month 12 with Regional Working Group (RWG) consisting of representatives of national and subnational authorities involved in NISSAP implementation, GCAs, NMROs and CBOs; 1.2 GCAs and at least four institutions / programmes have adopted management of prosopis (and other IAPS) by Month 24; 1.3 Four meetings held between months 3 and 15 with Local Implementation Groups (LIGs) consisting of actors from inside and outside PAs to establish communication pathways	During the reporting period, we organised one consultative meeting with the RWG (SMART Indicator 1.1) and one meeting with the LIG (1.3), during which a draft prosopis management plan for the project area was developed. *[evidence: meeting report and digitised draft management plan; Annex 4]* We established lines of communication with the LIG and RWG members through WhatsApp, phone and in person visits (1.3). The project team visited the District Commissioner and District Administrators of Longido, Monduli and Ngorongoro districts in November 2022 and March 2023 to formally introduce the project, explain the threat posed by prosopis and the need for management plans, and to explain the draft plan. The team also presented the project to Monduli District Assembly. These introductory visits will help in profiling prosopis management in district planning activities (3.2). It is too early for GCAs or institutions to have adopted management of prosopis.	

	and co-design surveillance and management practices;		
Activity 1.1 Two RWG meetings to develop a communication/coordination strategy and a spatially explicit prosopis management strategy for the target region		One RWG meeting has been held *[Evidence: Annex 4]*	The second RWG meeting will be held in May 2023, during which a communication strategy will be developed
Activity 1.2 Prosopis (and other IAPS) management integrated in at least three land management plans or conservation / restoration programmes;.		No progress on this yet, as it is too early in the project	We will engage with land use planners at the regional and district levels and with protected area managers to mainstream prosopis (and other IAS) management
Activity 1.3 Two LIG meetings for each of the northern (Lake Natron) and southern (Mto wa Mbu) parts of the region to co-design and prepare implementation of IAPS surveillance and management measures;		One LIG was established for the entire area, as we will develop a single management plan for the entire project area. The LIG met once and co-developed a draft management plan *[evidence: Annex 4]*	We will organise one community consultation meeting in each of the three districts, followed by a second LIG workshop to finalise the management plan and design surveillance measures.
Output 2. **Stakeholders more aware of impacts** of Prosopis and other IAPS **and of practices** to manage them in a spatial context	2.1 Information on impact and management of IAPS featured in social, electronic and printed media on a quarterly basis; 2.2 Factsheets, short videos, leaflets & posters on the management of Prosopis and other IAPS produced and shared, and annual field days organised by month 24; 2.3 Changed perception of Prosopis and other IAPS (compared with baseline) by month 24;	We disseminated news and updates to participants in the RWG and LIG through different channels (National television, Twitter, Whatsapp, phone and in person) on a regular basis (2.1). We developed posters about identification of prosopis, management strategies for IAS, and effective prosopis management practices and used them during the LIG and RWG workshops. We also produced stickers for easy identification of prosopis that were handed out to workshop participants and during field visits (2.2). *[Evidence: see Annex 4 for examples]* The participants to the LIG and RWG workshops visited an area in Moshi Rural Ward with dense prosopis invasion, where they interacted with affected people. *[Evidence: meeting report in Annex 4]* The assessment of baseline knowledge and perceptions about, and motivation to manage prosopis (2.3) by community members and stakeholders is delayed because progress of the students primarily tasked with collecting this information is delayed by university procedures.	
Activity 2.1 Disseminate news briefs via different media;		We disseminated news and updates to participants in the RWG and LIG through different channels (National television, Twitter, Whatsapp, phone and in person), but the information has so far not been presented as a “news brief”.	We will develop news briefs and will disseminate these to national focal points of conventions, treaties and NGOs (including donor organisations)

Activity 2.2 Draft factsheets and other information material on Prosopis and other IAPS management practices, and organise field days;		Fact sheets and other information material on Prosopis and other IAPS management practices were developed and disseminated, and one field day organised. *[Evidence: sample materials and report in Annex 4]*	Additional flyers are being developed, as is a field handbook about prosopis. Field demonstrations and visits will be part of upcoming community consultations and ToT events
Activity 2.3 Compile questionnaire on stakeholder knowledge, perception and motivation and collect information at the beginning and at the end of the project;		This has been delayed due to university regulations that affect the progress made by the student whose task this is.	The questionnaire for the baseline study is being prepared by the entire project team and will be administered prior to the community consultation meeting, so before a wider group of stakeholders learns about prosopis, other IAS and project activities. An endline survey will be developed and administered at the end of Y2.
Output 3. **Extension agents, rangers and other frontline actors** from CBOs, society-rooted NRMOs and communities **support** land users to carry out prosopis and IAPS surveillance and management	3.1 Three Training of Trainer (ToT) events held with 30 extension agents, rangers and senior field staff from NRMOs, NGOs and CBOs, and with village and Maasai leaders by the end of month 18; 3.2 Land users and other actors engaged in management of prosopis and other IAPS, from month 7 until month 24; 3.3 Number of prosopis infestations mapped by month 6 and decreased by 50% in the target region by month 24;	We plan Training of Trainer events and practical demonstration of prosopis management methods in May (3.1), which should result in management actions on the ground (3.2). Thus, progress towards this output is very limited, but we have acquired the required chemical herbicides and ordered the production or "tree poppers" (manual tools that are used to uproot small trees) and are therefore ready to work on this output. As mentioned below in section 3.3, removal of 50% of prosopis in the project area (3.3) is unlikely to happen.	
Activity 3.1 Conduct at least 3 Training-of-Trainer events;		No progress made, as planned.	We plan Training of Trainer events and practical demonstration of prosopis management methods in May.
Activity 3.2 Compile questionnaire on local stakeholders' decision to adopt IAPS management;		No progress made, as planned.	An endline survey about knowledge about prosopis and its management will be developed and administered at the end of Y2.
Activity 3.3 Monitor removal of prosopis and other IAPS in target region;		No progress made, as planned.	The project team has created a tool (base on ODK) to collect data on prosopis distribution and where management is being implemented and will

			facilitate one person per district to assist in data collection (the majority of the work is expected to be done by an MSc student)
Output 4. Implementation of IAPS management in other regions guided by **best practice manual for coordinated implementation of NISSAP** inside and outside protected areas;	4.1 Documentation on best practices, including changes achieved within the project's lifetime, on establishing communication pathways among actors involved in NISSAP and on implementing IAPS surveillance and management in target region by month 24; 4.2 Best practice manual disseminated to representatives of national and subnational authorities involved in NISSAP implementation and to other regions by month 24;	No progress made, as planned. Activities related to this output will start during the second LIG and RWG workshops in May 2023.	
Activity 4.1 Compile and distribute Best Practice Manual;		No progress made, as planned.	Activities related to this output will start during the second LIG and RWG workshops in May 2023.
Activity 4.2 Compile questionnaire on national and subnational actors' knowledge on best practices for NISSAP implementation;		No progress made, as planned.	Activities related to this output will start during the second LIG and RWG workshops in May 2023.

Annex 2: Project's full current Indicators of Success as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

We were asked to update the logframe prior to acceptance of the proposal, which is why it is slightly different from the version in the application form. The one below is the version that was agreed

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification
Outcome: Biodiversity and livelihoods are strengthened through increased awareness and coordinated implementation of surveillance and management of Prosopis and other invasive alien plants (IAPS) inside and outside protected areas	- Awareness about National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP) and the impact of Prosopis and other IAPS on nature and livelihoods increased in the project's target area; - Game Controlled Areas (GCAs), Natural Resource Management Organizations (NRMOs), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and communities are implementing surveillance and management of Prosopis and other IAPS; - Lessons learned from coordinated implementation of NISSAP in the target region disseminated to and taken up in other parts of Tanzania	- Semi-structured interviews with at least 80 stakeholders involved / not involved in the project to assess change in knowledge, perception and motivation to manage prosopis and other IAPS; - IAPS surveillance and implementation strategy established and 50% of prosopis infestations removed; - Best practice documents for coordinated implementation of NISSAP in other regions available and distributed;
Output 1 Prosopis and IAPS management adopted as a **key function of GCAs, CBOs and society-rooted NRMOs** and becomes integral part of land management plans and/or conservation and restoration programmes in target region	1.1 Two meetings held by month 12 with Regional Working Group (RWG) consisting of representatives of national and subnational authorities involved in NISSAP implementation, GCAs, NMROs and CBOs; 1.2 GCAs and at least four institutions / programmes have adopted management of prosopis (and other IAPS) by Month 24; 1.3 Four meetings held between months 3 and 15 with Local Implementation Groups (LIGs) consisting of actors from inside and outside PAs to establish communication pathways and co-design surveillance and management practices;	1.1 Minutes of RWG meetings; 1.2 Prosopis and other IAPS management profiled and featured prominently in development and land management programmes of relevant governments, GCAs, NRMOs, NGOs and CBOs active in target region; 1.3 Written reports of LIG meetings;
Output 2 **Stakeholders more aware of impacts** of Prosopis and other IAPS **and of practices** to manage them in a spatial context	2.1 Information on impact and management of IAPS featured in social, electronic and printed media on a quarterly basis; 2.2 Factsheets, short videos, leaflets & posters on the management of Prosopis and other IAPS produced and shared, and annual field days organised by month 24; 2.3 Changed perception of Prosopis and other IAPS (compared with baseline) by month 24;	2.1 At least 10 media appearances; 2.2 At least 10 factsheet, 3 short videos and other information / engagement material distributed and used, and at least 500 people reached with factsheets and/or during field days; 2.3 Questionnaire on knowledge, perception and motivation to be completed by 80 stakeholders each either involved or not involved in the project;
Output 3	3.1 Three Training of Trainer (ToT) events held with 30 extension agents, rangers and senior field staff from	3.1 Training reports, with at least 30 trainers from different institutions trained;

Extension agents, rangers and other frontline actors from CBOs, society-rooted NRMOs and communities **support** land users to carry out prosopis and IAPS surveillance and management	NRMOs, NGOs and CBOs, and with village and Maasai leaders by the end of month 18; 3.2 Land users and other actors engaged in management of prosopis and other IAPS, from month 7 until month 24; 3.3 Number of prosopis infestations mapped by month 6 and decreased by 50% in the target region by month 24;	3.2 Semi-structured interviews with 30 CBOs, village leaders and land users; 3.3 50% of prosopis infestations in and around Mto wa Mbu and Lake Natron cleared;
Output 4 Implementation of IAPS management in other regions guided by **best practice manual for coordinated implementation of NISSAP** inside and outside protected areas;	4.1 Documentation on best practices, including changes achieved within the project's lifetime, on establishing communication pathways among actors involved in NISSAP and on implementing IAPS surveillance and management in target region by month 24; 4.2 Best practice manual disseminated to representatives of national and subnational authorities involved in NISSAP implementation and to other regions by month 24;	4.1 Best practice manual available and distributed to all relevant actors; 4.2 Semi-structured interviews with national and subnational actors to assess whether best practice manual is known and understood;

Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

1.1 Two RWG meetings to develop a communication/coordination strategy and a spatially explicit prosopis management strategy for the target region;
1.2 Prosopis (and other IAPS) management integrated in at least three land management plans or conservation / restoration programmes;
1.3 Two LIG meetings for each of the northern (Lake Natron) and southern (Mto wa Mbu) parts of the region to co-design and prepare implementation of IAPS surveillance and management measures;
2.1 Disseminate news briefs via different media;
2.2 Draft factsheets and other information material on Prosopis and other IAPS management practices, and organise field days;
2.4 Compile questionnaire on stakeholder knowledge, perception and motivation and collect information at the beginning and at the end of the project;
3.1 Conduct at least 3 Training-of-Trainer events;
3.2 Compile questionnaire on local stakeholders' decision to adopt IAPS management;
3.3 Monitor removal of prosopis and other IAPS in target region;
4.1 Compile and distribute Best Practice Manual;
4.2 Compile questionnaire on national and subnational actors' knowledge on best practices for NISSAP implementation;

Important Assumptions

1. All governance scales are committed to implementing the NISSAP;
2. CBOs and communities are granted adequate means to do so;
3. Communication pathways across scale and between inside and outside PAs are actively used;
4. Extension services, rangers and other frontline actors take up topic and advice pastoralists/land users;
5. The awareness creation and training material is useful and actively accessed by relevant stakeholders;
6. Relevant stakeholders have the required willingness and motivation to participate in implementation.

Annex 3: Standard Indicators

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DI Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-A03	Number of local/national organisations with improved capability and capacity as a result of project		None	National, subnational, local	20				25
DI-A05	Number of trainers trained reported to have delivered further training by the end of the project		Number	Men, women	0				30
DI-B01	Number of new habitat management plans available and endorsed	Number of new land management plans available and endorsed	Number	None	0				4
DI-C01	Number of best practice guides		Number	None	0				1
DI-E01	Ecosystem degradation avoided (ha)		ha	None	0				1,508,000 (1)
DI-C15	Number of media-related activities	Number of flyers, posters, appearances on television, handbooks, social media posts	Number	None	1 flyer (550 printed), 1 national television appearance, six posters, 3 social media posts, 1 sticker (400 printed)				2 flyers, 1 field handbook, 10 media appearances, three short videos

(1) This is an estimate, based on the assumption that the management practices to meet the objectives selected by LIG workshop participants (see draft management plan in Annex 4) will be implemented and largely effective in stopping the invasion spread. We assumed that “high priority monitoring and prevention” (i.e. unaffected areas) will be effective in preventing the establishment of prosopis in those areas, thus preventing ecosystem degradation 100%, and that “high priority EDRR” will be 75% effective in preventing impacts of prosopis. The latter is a conservative estimate (it should be higher if management is fully and correctly implemented).

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
None this year	-	-	-	-	-	-

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the **correct template** (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and **deleted the blue guidance text** before submission?	Y
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	Y
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	N
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Y
Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	N
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 15)?	NA
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Y
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Y
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	